Disbanding of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

1258. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA; SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are consider ing any proposal to disband the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) and hand over its Rs. 76 lakhs budget to the Haryana Agri cultural University; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINTS-TRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAY-ANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) Sir, a visiting team of the ICAR has recommended that two Krishi Vigyan Kendras, one at Karnal under the National Dairy Research Institute, (Karnal) and another at Shikohpur, Gurgaon under the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (New Delhi) may be integrated with new KVKs proposed to be set up under the Haryana Agricultural University. This is with a view to make them more effective in serving the farmers.

Relaxation in the stipulation t° retain Funds by NDDB

1259. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nodal Market Intervention Agency NDDB, can not retain funds beyond Rs. 30 crores out of Sale of edible oil under market inter vention activities, such as augmenting oil supplies, maintaining buffer stock while providing remunerative price to farmers and maintaining edible oil prices within the price band;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to relax the stipulation that funds beyond Rs. 30 crores realised during low stock pe riod ploughed back to augment supply and hold pries within the price band; and

(c) since the price band has been speci fied in constant prices, what steps Gov ernment propose t oevolve for "relative" price bands in terms of current price to protect the oilseeds growers from being denied remunerative prices when inflation affects their inputs and standard of living.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAY-ANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH); (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under considera-tion.

(c) The price bands are fixed on the basis of existing minimum support prices for oilseeds, cost of prcessing, storage, handling, distribution and other charges. The price band is also reviewed from time to time taking into consideration all relevant factors.

Closing down of farms

1260. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal for closing down 8 of the 13 farms being managed by the Government owned State Farms Corpora tion of India (SFCI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN- THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAY-ANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Income based ration system

1261. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUP PLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to in troduce an income-based rationing system in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH); (a) and (b) There is no change in Government's Policy on Public Distribution System so far.